

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 270 - HB 268

March 10, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Adds part-time police officers, temporary police officers, reserve police officers, auxiliary police officers, or special deputies, as defined by Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-101, to the definition of “school resource officer (SRO)”, provided such officers have been assigned to an elementary or middle school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief of the local law enforcement agency and the local education agency (LEA). Requires any such appointed part-time officer to be trained in accordance with the executed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the local law enforcement agency and the LEA. Exempts such part-time SROs from limitations on the number of hours that such officers may work in a week or month codified in Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-101.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$875,000/Permissive

Assumptions:

- Additional part-time officers may be hired by LEAs in accordance with an MOU to work in a middle or elementary school that does not currently have an SRO.
- An MOU may require that part-time officers receive POST certification or be subject to other training not yet developed. Any increase in state expenditures to develop new training for part-time SRO officers is estimated to be not significant.
- The exact number of part-time SROs that will be hired is dependent upon the needs and budget constraints of any LEA.
- The average salary of a part-time SRO varies by law enforcement agency, but is estimated to be between \$10,000 and \$40,000, based on information received from the UT County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, the Department of Education, and the Comptroller of the Treasury.
- Initial and recurring training costs for new part-time SRO employees are unknown and cannot be reasonably quantified.
- The extent to which an LEA will provide benefits for any newly-employed SRO is unknown and cannot be reasonably quantified.
- There are 1,784 schools in Tennessee and an estimated 700 SROs.
- A minimum five percent increase in the number of part-time SROs as a result of this bill.
- The number of additional part-time SROs is reasonably estimated to be 35 (700 x 5%) statewide.

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- The average expenditure for each new part-time SRO employed is reasonably estimated to be \$25,000 per year (including any benefits and required training).
- The permissive increase in local government expenditures is estimated to exceed \$875,000 (35 new officers x \$25,000).
- The number of full-time SROs will remain unchanged.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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